

INJURY PREVENTION FOR ST. JOSEPH TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF CHANGE

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ABSTRACT

This research project reviewed injury prevention programs that are being taught in the fire service and the feasibility of teaching these types of programs in St. Joseph Township. The problem: St. Joseph Township Fire Department has no comprehensive injury prevention program available to use in the community. Therefore, the purpose of this applied research project was to determine if the fire department members support the concept of a Primary Injury Prevention Program and what type of programs should be delivered.

These research questions were as follows:

1. Should injury prevention programs encompass more than fire prevention in the fire and EMS service of St. Joseph Township.
2. What type of injury prevention programs have other fire departments presented in their communities?
3. Are there funding sources available to develop and produce a comprehensive injury prevention program for the citizens of St Joseph Township and northern Indiana?

This research project employed historical research in both that the data from literature reviews was used to understand the need for a comprehensive injury prevention program, and what other agencies were doing in this area. Action research was also used in order to obtain current data from present fire department members to determine if they support this concept and what areas they would support.

The fundamental procedures employed were a literature review, personal and telephone interviews, and a survey sent to department members. Data from the literature review and interviews is discussed in the literature review section of this paper. Data compiled from the survey was placed in table form in the results section.

The most important findings of this research was that the members of St. Joseph Township Fire Department do support the need for injury prevention in our community. Fire departments across the nation are beginning to provide injury prevention as part of there normal routine.

It was recommended that fire prevention should stay as the primary focus, however, injury prevention education should also be addressed. Community resources should be contacted to help support these additional responsibilities. All firefighters and emergency medical personnel should be encouraged to assist with it.

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INTRODUCTION

The fire service today has changed in many ways to include a more diverse area of responsibility. The role of the fire service has always been to find ways to decrease fires and fire related injuries. Today many fire departments are adding a new area of prevention responsibility to include more than fire prevention. Primary Injury Prevention is the terminology used to describe this multi-facet approach to injury prevention. As stated in the Annals of Emergency Medicine, "Injury is a leading cause of death and disability. Preventing injuries from ever occurring is primary injury prevention" (Garrison, Foltin, Becker, Chew, Johnson, Madsen, Miller, Ozmar, 1997)

The problem is St. Joseph Township Fire Department has no comprehensive injury prevention program available to use in the community. Therefore, the purpose of this applied research project is to determine if the fire department members support the concept of a Primary Injury Prevention Program and what type of program should be delivered.

This study used historical and action research methods to answer the following questions:

1. Should injury prevention programs encompass more than fire prevention in the fire and EMS service of St. Joseph Township.
4. What type of injury prevention programs have other fire departments presented in their communities? Are there funding sources available to develop and produce a comprehensive injury prevention program for the citizens of St Joseph Township and northern Indiana?

BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

St. Joseph Township Fire Department has provided fire prevention and education courses to area residence for over 25 years. During this time St. Joseph Township Fire Department has educated school children as well as adults and senior citizens. Firefighters have taught school age children the importance of knowing the emergency number, the Stop Drop and Roll program, getting out of the house if there is a fire, and other fire related messages. St Joseph Township has presented programs at neighborhood associations dealing with the fire prevention message as well as programs at nursing homes emphasizing the importance of fire safety and evacuation drills (St Joseph Township, 1979). Firefighters have also taken an active role with local Scouts to present Fire Safety Merit Badge courses.

When presenting fire safety education, the audience was evaluated to determine the level of material to be presented. A Sesame Street video was used for a long time with “Big Bird” teaching small children the importance of Stop, Drop and Roll. Older children had the opportunity to see the Fire Apparatus, and a slide show was presented to the adults.

In the early 1980's the St. Joseph Township Fire Department was very pro-active in helping to establish a smoke alarm ordinance in Allen County requiring a smoke alarm be installed in every residence in the County. St. Joseph Township Fire Department also worked very close with a local builder in order to establish the first residential structure to have a sprinkler system installed (St. Joseph Township, 1981).

While reading Alan Brunacini’s book, Essentials of Fire Department Customer Service, he discusses one portion of his mission statement as being “Prevent Harm”. He describes this as;

“This statement very quickly describes why we are in business and creates the organizational direction and authorization to help the customers (people, animals, and

things) we encounter who are in some way threatened, being harmed or out of balance.

We do this (manage harm) in a way that depends on when we enter the event. The very best approach is to prevent the harm before it happens” (Brunacini, 1996).

As our fire department began evaluating this “Prevent Harm” concept, the conclusion was that we should transform our fire prevention education efforts into a “Primary Injury Prevention” program. As the fire service has seen a reduction of fire related injuries with the advent of smoke alarms and prevention education, it would be a reasonable assumption that this would apply for other types of injuries.

As we move into primary injury prevention concept, our first priority will be to determine the types of injuries we should work to reduce. We would also like to develop a mobile display unit that could be taken to schools and festivals as a tool for injury prevention.

This paper has been written to satisfy the applied research requirement for the Strategic Management of Change course at the National Fire Academy. The project relates to the course work on developmental perspective as we develop the injury prevention programs as well as the evaluation aspect to determine if the program is a success.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A literature review was performed to identify existing research on injury prevention as it relates to fire and EMS departments. The review also provided insight as to the type of injury prevention programs that may make a difference in our community. The literature review involved a search of fire service trade journals, magazines and books. The research questions are the focus of this review which when answered, should provide insight into this problem.

Injury prevention along with fire prevention in St. Joseph Township

“Part of our job as members of the medical care team is to become active in injury

prevention. Our words can have important implications. For example, Webster's Dictionary defines an "accident" as "an event occurring by chance or arising from unknown causes," although the second definition is "an unfortunate event resulting from carelessness, unawareness, or ignorance." The EMT should strive to be careful, aware, and informed. Part of the EMT's responsibility is to educate patients and potential victims regarding prevention" (Mosby, 1999).

Firefighters and EMT's should become active in prevention. The National Safe Kids Campaign has made a strong effort to educate the public on ways to prevent injuries. "Motor vehicle accidents (MVA) are the leading cause of fatal unintentional injury among children age 14 and under. In 1995, 42% of all fatal unintentional injuries to children were the result of motor vehicle accidents" (Spivak, 1999). Drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury related death among children age 14 and under, accounting for 16% of such deaths among children in this age group in 1995 (Spivak, 1999).

As early as the mid-1980s, editorials in the Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS) were advocating injury and trauma prevention for EMS agencies. In a 1985 JEMS editorial, one author stated that "trauma prevention is an appropriate, productive and often rewarding part of EMS.... Prevention is the right side of the issue – EMS has a special role to play" (Kinnane, Garrison, Coben, Alonso-Serra, 1997).

Responding to Safe Kids information, motor vehicle accidents or crashes, as a more accurate description, should be our number one prevention focus. Drowning prevention should also take a high priority as this causes a large number of childhood injuries. Safe Kids web page states the leading cause of unintentional deaths in the home was fire. "In 1999, approximately 540 children ages 14 and under died in the home from unintentional fire and burns. Of these, 65 percent were ages 4 and under." The number two reason was suffocation with 370 children

suffocated in 1999, this was followed by 340 children who suffered drowning. Choking, falls, firearm injuries and poisoning also made the list of preventable injuries
(<http://www.safekids.org>)

Type of programs presented by other communities

Many fire departments across the United States have taken primary injury prevention very serious when it comes to their role in the community. Organizations across the country have created programs to help prevent childhood injuries and deaths.

One department that has a variety of such programs is the Littleton Fire Department which teaches kids a variety of safe behaviors, including the need to buckle their seat belts and wear helmets when riding a bicycle or rollerblading. Through puppets the Littleton Fire Department presents programs that are geared for children from preschool through 5th grade. These programs cover a variety of safe behaviors relating to fire, water, pedestrian, bicycle, and motor vehicle safety. This department also has a program called CAR (Commonsense, Awareness and Responsibility) which teaches safe driving habits to teenagers (Spivak, 1999).

The Pinellas County drowning registry revealed that children less than 3 years old in residential pools under adult supervision were at greatest risk for drowning. To target that risk group, an annual April Pools Day was established where EMS providers conduct infant and child CPR classes and educate parents and children on water safety (Kinnane, et al).

Pool drowning prevention programs coordinated by the Phoenix and Tucson Arizona Fire Departments created a change in legislation created a law requiring a fence around all pools. They also created an educational program on water safety. Combining the two, showed a decrease in water related accidents (Griffins, 1999).

Lutheran Children's Hospital in Fort Wayne performs safety checks on car seats on a

regular basis. They set up appointments and parents bring their children to make sure the seats are correctly installed along with using the proper seat for the child. This program also takes place at three other locations in Fort Wayne. “We have found over 90% of the seats are either incorrectly installed or have some other type of problem.” S. Tuttle (personal communication) April 10, 2001.

Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne offers injury prevention programs on a variety of subjects. Bicycle helmets can be purchased from the hospital at a reduced cost. They also offer bicycle safety programs at area schools along with a high school program that includes a well produced drunk driving video. L. Hunt (personal communication) April 5, 2001.

Available funding sources

In the article “The Role of Emergency Medical Services in Primary Injury Prevention”, this is stated very well when they say “It is difficult to undertake injury prevention interventions without funding. Organizational commitment to obtaining resources is a critical step in the development of prevention activities.” (Garrison et al, 1997).

National Safe Kids was started in 1988 through a proclamation signed by President Ronald Regan. Since the inception of this organization, they have received grants from many corporate sponsors including a \$3.3 million grant to purchase car safety seats for distribution.

The Johnson & Johnson Company has also been a very generous sponsor for National Safe Kids. According to Heather Paul, Executive Director of National Safe Kids, funding for these programs comes through corporate sponsors and federal grants through the United States Department of Transportation and the United States Fire Administration (Spivak, 1999).

“Allen County Safe Kids Coalition has representatives from many organizations in the

Fort Wayne area and is a good resource group for information along with financial support”, says Jean Jolley, Coordinator for Allen County Safe Kids. “Our primary focus is child restraints, however, we also play a role in many injury prevention programs.”

Contacting local sponsors to help fund an injury prevention program is one of the best ways to support this type of intervention. In an interview with Jane Wutrich, a successful fundraiser in Fort Wayne, she outlines 5 steps to successful fund raising.

1. Some projects may need a Board of Directors from the community. This group should include an Attorney, Accountant, Marketing/Fund Raiser, Government Official and members from the Emergency Services Community. Look for the “Money Type” people in our area remembering that at times, more money is raised on the golf course than writing grants and proposals.
2. Write a cover letter explaining our program in a short, easy to read form.
3. Develop a 1 - 2 sentence Mission Statement outlining the purpose.
4. Write a two-page Proposal which starts out with the Mission Statement and gives specifics of the project.
5. Put together a strategic plan using goals and objectives.

A good business strategy is to acknowledge all contacts with a follow-up letter keeping potential donors well informed as to the progress of the project. If an agency agrees to help, you must recognize its participation in the project. The following are two common ways of recognizing contributors:

1. Send a thank-you letter when the project is completed. Be sure to include the approximate value of goods and/or services provided.

2. Install a small sign or plaque at the project site noting an agency's participation, or have the corporate or an agency name listed on a general thank-you sign in a high-traffic area of your facility (Gackenhimer, 2000)

Indiana University currently has a grant program available for organizations with certified Car Seat Technicians to set up a permanent check site. The grant will purchase car seats to be given to persons who do not have proper seats. Funds can also be used to purchase other supplies such as signs to advertise the site along with towels and padding to go under the seats. Becoming a permanent check site is a good way to establish your organization as a car seat inspection site. J. Sims, (personal communication) February 6, 2001.

PROCEDURES

The research procedures used in this study began with a literature search and review at the Learning Resource Center (LRC) at the National Emergency Training Center in January of 2001. Additional information was obtained from the Allen County Public Library, the library at the St. Joseph Township Fire Department, and the author's personal library.

Personal and telephone interviews were conducted in February and April 2001 with the following:

Jane Sims, Project Coordinator, Permanent Child Seat Stations, Indiana University;

Jean Jolley, Coordinator of Allen County Safe Kids Coalition;

Scott Tuttle, RN, Director of Education and Outreach, Lutheran Children's Hospital;

Lori Hunt, Injury Prevention Specialist, Parkview Level II Trauma Center.

A survey was distributed to the members of the St. Joseph Township Fire Department who attended training on Wednesday, February 21, 2001. This date was chosen as it was a joint training between our EMS and Fire Divisions which brought together a wider variety of

personnel. The surveys were returned confidential so it was impossible to follow-up on the non-returned forms.

Definition of Terms

Permanent Child Seat Station - Location where child restraint seats are checked for proper installation and use.

PIP - Primary Injury Prevention.

Primary Injury Prevention - Prevention of Injuries from ever occurring.

Research Methodology

The desired outcome of this research project was to determine the need to create a primary injury prevention program for St. Joseph Township Fire Department that would be expanded from its current fire prevention topics. The research was historical in that the data from the literature review was used to understand the need for an expanded program and how other agencies went about developing their own programs.

Evaluative research was used with a survey being distributed to the members of St. Joseph Township Fire Department who attend a joint EMS/ fire training on February 21, 2001. Of the 28 persons who attended training, 25 surveys were returned for a return rate of 90%.

Personal interviews were conducted in person or over the telephone. Jan Sims was interviewed to learn about Permanent Child Seat Inspection Sites, and the procedure and possibility of becoming a site. Jean Jolley provided insight into the local Safe Kids Coalition, and how they can help us change over from a strictly fire prevention program into a primary injury program. To learn about other injury prevention programs in the community, Scott Tuttle and Lori Hunt were interviewed to learn about the efforts of two of our local hospitals. Both

Scott and Lori are members of the Allen County Safe Kids Coalition.

Jane Wuthrich has had a very successful career in the area of fund-raising. She successfully raised enough money to start a program called “Super Shot Saturday”. This program gives immunizations to children who can not afford to get them from their family doctor. Her fund-raising has continued to be so successful that an endowment fund was established, and “Super Shot” now has multiple locations open 6 days a week. Mrs. Wuthrich was interviewed to determine how an organization can go about raising money for projects such as an injury prevention program.

Assumptions and Limitations

Only 28 surveys were distributed to a department with over 60 members with a 90% return rate. Since the surveys were returned confidential, it would have been difficult to distribute the survey to persons who did not attend the training on February 21st or those that did not return the survey. A better date might have been at our quarterly business meeting in which a larger audience could have been surveyed.

RESULTS

1. Should injury prevention programs encompass more than fire prevention in the fire and EMS service of St Joseph Township?

Injury is the leading cause of death and disability. Preventing injuries from ever occurring is primary injury prevention (Garrison, 1997).

National Safe Kids information states that, motor vehicle crashes should be our number one prevention focus as this is the number one killer of children. Injury prevention around the home should also be very high on our prevention list. Fire is the number one cause of deaths in the home for children followed by suffocation, drowning, choking, falls, firearm injuries, and poisoning. (<http://www.safekids.org>)

Survey results revealed the following data:

1. I am a Firefighter, EMT, or Firefighter/EMT:

Firefighter	EMT	Firefighter/EMT
7	4	14

2. Injury prevention is important to me as it relates to my role as a firefighter and/or EMT:

Yes	No
25	0

3. Please rank the following in order as it relates to our role in injury prevention:

Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bicycle Safety				2 8%	3 12%	7 28%	2 8%	1 4%	7 28%
Burn Prevention	1 4%	5 20%	1 4%	7 28%	3 12%	2 8%	3 12%	2 8%	
Car Seat Use		7 28%	4 16%	2 8%	5 20%	2 8%	1 4%	1 4%	
Drug Abuse				1 4%	1 4%	3 12%	3 12%	2 8%	11 44%
Drunk Driving	1 4%	2 8%	8 32%	2 8%	6 24%	2 8%	1 4%	2 8%	1 4%
Fire Prevention	14 56%	8 32%				1 4%			
Firearm Safety	2 8%	1 4%	1 4%		2 8%	2 8%	6 24%	2 8%	1 4%
Poison Prevention			1 4%	1 4%		3 12%	5 20%	9 36%	1 4%
Seatbelt Use	7	1	7	7		1	1		

Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	28%	4%	28%	28%		4%	4%		
Water Safety		1	2	2	5	2	3	6	4
		4%	8%	8%	20%	8%	12%	24%	16%

Results from this survey revealed that the members of St. Joseph Township feel that Fire Prevention should remain our number one focus when it comes to injury prevention. Safety in the motor vehicle should be our second focus with seat belt use, child restraint education, and drunk driving took a high level of interest. Burn prevention goes along with fire prevention, however, our program should also include more education on preventing burns other than those caused by fire. Firearm safety, poison prevention, water safety and drug abuse took a lower level of interest, however, these topics should be covered in an integrated prevention program.

St. Joseph Township Fire Department should deliver injury prevention programs as well as its current fire prevention programs to the citizens of the community.

2. What type of injury prevention programs have other fire departments presented in their communities?

Fire departments across the United States take primary injury prevention very serious as far as educating their citizens. Many organizations have created programs to help prevent childhood injuries and deaths.

When Pinellas County, Florida's trauma registry, revealed that children were drowning in residential pools under adult supervision, they created a program to educate parents and children

about water safety that also included CPR and first aid. (Kinnane, et al).

Another department, the Littleton Fire Department teaches children in variety of safe classes, including the need to buckle their seat belts and wear helmets when riding a bicycle or rollerblading. Using puppets, the Littleton Fire Department presents programs that are geared for children from preschool through 5th grade. These programs cover a variety of safe behaviors relating to fire, water, pedestrian, bicycle, and motor vehicle safety including a program geared towards teenage drivers concerning safe driving habits. (Spivak, 1999).

Safety programs may also include changing laws in the community to make an activity safer such as the changes made in Arizona creating mandatory fencing around pools (Griffins, 1999).

Lutheran Children's Hospital in Fort Wayne completes safety checks on car seats on a regular basis. They set up appointments so parents can bring their children in to have their car seats inspected for proper use and installation. This program also takes place at three other locations in Fort Wayne. "We have found over 90% of the seats are either incorrectly installed or have some other type of problem." S. Tuttle (personal communication) April 10, 2001.

Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne's Trauma Center offers injury prevention programs on a variety of subjects. They offer bicycle safety programs at area schools along with a high school program that includes a well produced drunk driving video. As a Super Shot location, they also sell bicycle helmets at a reduced rate so everyone should be able to afford them for their children L Hunt (personal communication) April 5, 2001.

The benefits of providing an integrated injury prevention program can be excellent. The reduction of countless injuries can be attributed to well rounded education programs that deal

with preventable injuries along with changes in laws that can make areas safer.

3 Are there funding sources available to develop and produce a comprehensive injury prevention program for the citizens of St Joseph Township and northern Indiana?

In the article The Role of Emergency Medical Services in Primary Injury Prevention, it is stated very well when they say “It is difficult to undertake injury prevention interventions without funding. Organizational commitment to obtaining resources is a critical step in the development of prevention activities.” (Garrison et al, 1997).

Grants are available through the efforts of National Safe Kids for many safety programs directly related to children. The Johnson & Johnson Company along with General Motors have been generous sponsors for National Safe Kids (Spivak, 1999). National Safe Kids makes some of these grants available to local coalitions.

Allen County Safe Kids Coalition has received grants from many community sources according to Jean Jolley, Coordinator for Allen County Safe Kids. “With a primary focus on Child Safety Seats, we have received grants from General Motors to support our inspection efforts.” Mrs. Jolley also states that Safe Kids has received grants to assist with other safety programs including a recent grant of \$2000.00 to purchase smoke detectors for families who do not have them. As a member of Safe Kids, St Joseph Township Fire Department can also apply for grants using Safe Kids as a sponsor.

Jane Wutrich once again reiterated the fact that many local foundations make funds available to not-for-profit organizations for community projects, and she believes that injury prevention would take a high priority.

Following a discussion with Justin Sims, an application was submitted to Indiana University for St. Joseph Township Fire Department to become a permanent inspection station for car seats. The grant will include 150 car seats along with \$4000 over the next two year to facilitate a permanent inspection site.

The information gathered determined that there is a funding source available to develop and deliver a primary injury prevention program. Funding sources are available not only for fire prevention but also auto and home safety programs.

DISCUSSION

It was evident by the research completed for this project that primary injury prevention should and is becoming the norm when it comes to public education in the fire service. It is summed up well in the Prehospital Trauma Life Support textbook when it states, “Injury Prevention: Our Responsibility”(1999). Historically, fire departments have always taken an active role in fire prevention and education. All school children are taught the importance of fire drills, how to call for help in an emergency, and most recently what to do when their clothes catch fire and through these efforts, a large number of needless injuries have been abated. Now is the time for emergency service personnel to take an active role in providing education to prevent other types of injuries. Firefighters and EMT’s should become active in prevention. National Safe Kids Campaign has worked hard to establish local coalitions and chapters to combat this preventable disease. Motor vehicle crashes are still the number one killer of children so it is time to help put a stop to this (Spivak, 1999). Over 15 years ago, JEMS magazine published an editorial stating “trauma prevention is an appropriate, productive and often rewarding part of EMS.... Prevention is the right side of the issue – EMS has a special role to play” (Kinnane, et al. 1997).

A large number of fire department in the United States have changed their fire prevention programs to include all types of injury prevention. When the cities of Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona saw an increase in pool related injuries, they went to work creating a drowning prevention program and also started a successful campaign to require fences around pools (Griffins, 1999) This was accomplished by having an injury prevention program in place which included gathering data to determine that a problem existed, finding the cause and implement a solution.

This type of program was also found in Pinellas County Florida where children were drowning in backyard pools while adults were supervising their activity. This information was turned into an annual pool safety day (Kinnane, et al.). Pinellas County came up with a catchy name calling it “April Pools Day” which allows people to associate a familiar word phrase with an important message.

In our community, there are different types of injury prevention programs in progress. Parkview Hospital employs three injury prevention specialist who present programs to the community. Through it Regional Trauma Center, Parkview presents bicycle safety programs to school age children. These programs include bicycle rodeos, videos and make available bicycle helmets at a very affordable price. Through there Foundation, they have also established a fund to provide helmet to children who cannot afford to buy them. Parkview also presents a program called “Feet First - Heads Up” in which spinal cord injured patients talk to children about diving accidents and also drinking and driving.

Lutheran Children’s Hospital is very active in the community promoting car seat safety. They work with other community groups such as Allen County Safe Kids and local TV and radio stations to promote safety seat check-up clinics. All Fort Wayne hospitals have Car Seat

Technicians available in their maternity units to check infant seats when newborns are discharged from the hospital.

Injury prevention programs can add an additional financial burden onto an already strapped fire department budget. In Garrison's article in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, it is stated that, "It is difficult to undertake injury prevention interventions without funding". Organizations need a commitment to obtain the needed resources to develop injury prevention programs.

Becoming a member of established groups or helping to establish a coalition such as Safe Kids could be way of putting multiple resources together. These resources can be financial in nature but could also include personnel and other support services. Jean Jolley, Coordinator for Allen County Safe Kids and also Executive Director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, states "When we have community wide events, we have the capability of pulling together a group of people including police officers, firefighters, nurses, senior citizens, and a large variety of persons willing to help with our cause". "Without these volunteers, completing these project would be impossible." Grants are also available for local community events such as The Johnson & Johnson Company sponsorship of National Safe Kids Week in which a program was present at an Elementary School for all the children in kindergarten, first and second grades. All the children received a T-shirt with the safe kids logo and a message that said "I'm a Safe Kid". "These type of programs completed at the end of the school year should make for a safer summer with less injuries" says Mrs. Jolley.

Fire Departments should also secure funds from private foundations and grants. Local corporate donations can also be encouraged by adding company logo's to printed material and

handouts. A number of business will welcome the added exposure and advertisement for a small investment. Fire department should not let funding get in the way of producing a well rounded injury prevention program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The research information gained from the literature review indicates that a large number of fire departments nationwide are taking a pro-active stance when it comes to injury prevention. Primary injury prevention is important to the firefighters and EMT's of the St. Joseph Township Fire Department. It was determined that 100% of the personnel who were surveyed, felt injury prevention is an important part of their work as emergency responders.

As we determine the areas of prevention to concentrate on, we should remember that fire prevention should remain a high priority. The current fire prevention programs that are offered by our public education division should remain in effect however the lessons should be expanded to include other topics. An example might be during a preschool program, along with teaching the importance of calling 911 in an emergency and the Stop, Drop and Roll concept, the class could also include burn prevention such as not touching the stove or being careful around hot water. Older children visiting the fire station should be offered information about bicycle safety and lessons about safety in the playground. Water safety could also be taught in the spring so children are ready when the weather gets hot and the pools open up.

St. Joseph Township has become a member of the Allen County Safe Kids Coalition which bring together a multitude of community resources. These include personnel from other fire departments, the police department, hospitals, and social service agencies. Safe kids also has grants available to help finance injury prevention programs. One such grant is available for smoke detectors. Through this resource, our department has purchased 500 smoke detectors and

will begin a door to door campaign in a neighborhood trailer park, checking for compliance of the law. Smoke detectors will be installed in homes not having them.

St. Joseph Township Fire Department should also continue working to obtain grants and funding for additional injury prevention programs. Programs should include child car seat inspections, presentations at community events, displays at festivals, and tours of the fire station. Since the start of this research project, our department has developed an injury prevention display trailer (See Appendix), which has been taken to area festivals and community events. The overall response from the citizens has been very positive and this program should continue. In summary, the members of St. Joseph Township Fire Department do support the change of our fire prevention program to also include other types of injury prevention. Fire prevention should stay as the primary focus, however, injury prevention education should address other types of injuries. Community resources should also be contacted to help support these additional responsibilities and all firefighters and emergency medical personnel should be encouraged to assist with this project.

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Appendix

Burn Education & Safety Awareness For Everyone

St Joseph Township Fire Department is located on the northeast side of Fort Wayne, as a combination department providing fire and EMS service to the citizens of unincorporated St Joseph Township and portions of Milan Township and Cedar Creek Township. We were established in 1954 and have grown to be a full service fire and EMS department. As a combination department, we have a paid fire/EMS crew Monday - Friday 6am - 6pm. Our volunteers provide back up during these times along with full volunteer coverage the rest of the time. As a department we are members of the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association, the Indiana Fire Chief's Association, Allen County Fire Chief's, Allen County EMS Providers Association. We are also members of the Local Emergency Planning Committee and Allen County Safe Kids.

St Joseph Township Fire Department has developed a goal to reduce needless injuries by increasing citizen education on injury and burn prevention. A 25 foot "Wells Cargo" trailer was designed and purchased with a 16 foot door added to the passenger side. With this door opened up, a large display area is visible. We constructed a display area with a Television incorporated allowing us the opportunity to show videos with a safety message. To the right of the display area, a small kitchen was built to show safety around the home. This includes fire and burn prevention around the stove, smoke alarms and fire extinguisher use. The last section of the trailer is set up to give information on Seat Belt and Child Restraints. The front of the trailer has a separate area for Hypertension Screen, children fingerprinting and first aid if needed. This area is also air conditioned to give relief on hot summer days. The graphic on the outside of the trailer will have our logo, BE SAFE (Burn Education & Safety Awareness For Everyone) along with a STOP, DROP & ROLL picture.

The trailer will be used at festivals such and the Three Rivers Festival, 4th of July Fireworks, along with community events such as Grabill Days etc. We were already a part of the Kidsfest at Germanfest and handed out Save our Child Stickers, coloring books on fire prevention and had an excellent response from the persons attending. On June 23rd, a Safety Day was held for the Amish Community and we discussed and demonstrated the use of Fire Extinguishers and the importance of Smoke Detectors, we also provided mini first aid training to the children on burn injury treatment. Through the efforts of the Milan Township Trustee, 100 smoke alarms were purchased and handed out to the participants.

With funds from our fire and EMS budget, the trailer was purchased and the displays were built. Madison Cabinets in Hoagland, IN designed and built the kitchen scene, the Carpet Craftsman store donated and installed the floor covering. Parkview Hospital Trauma Prevention Program has donated \$3000.00 for this project. Once the displays are completed the only ongoing costs will be updates and the expense to transport the trailer to events. We have applied for grants from Meijers, Menards, and also Lowes. As of this date, Meijers has turned us down for this year as they didn't have a very successful financial year during 2000. We are still awaiting answers from Menards and Lowes.

Evaluation into the success will be seeing the response from the participants. During the Amish Safety Day, we believe the trailer was a very important part of this day. The information that was given and the response from the participants will make this an annual event. An example was the fire extinguisher demonstration; we explained the chemistry of fire and what is needed for fire to occur. With this information in mind, we set fire to a mattress using only a discarded cigarette demonstrating how quick a mattress fire can occur. Using a dry chemical extinguisher the fire was quickly extinguished. Another demonstration was made with

flammable liquids demonstrating what happens when water is applied. As the fire exploded into a large fire ball, the audience was amazed. It was explained that this is what could happen with grease on the stove. We would like to convert a gas stove to burn with propane so a live grease fire can be produced make a more realistic display.

Having a mobile display available will make providing primary injury prevention a very rewarding experience.